

“Straw man” Parameter List - 4/5/11

1. BBEST report states that Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio Bays is currently a sound ecological environment, with few exceptions
 2. TCEQ’s rulemaking, as a result of this process, will be applied to new water rights applications and future amendments of existing water rights.
 3. The BBEST recommended flow regime is based on available science and considers historical flow data to account for monthly, seasonal, and annual variations in flow.
 4. The recommended flow regime from TCEQ will not apply to existing water rights. All existing water rights can be utilized subject to terms and conditions of the associated permits.
 5. All existing water rights are not being fully utilized (it is estimated that about 1/2 of the volume of water appropriated through granted water permits is currently being used).
 6. The water demand projections for Region L water planning area (which overlaps with the BBEST/BBASC region) indicate an increase in water needs from ~175,000 acre feet in 201 ~437,000 acre feet in 2060. ~92,000 acre feet could be met with existing water rights and ~49,500 acre feet could come from new water rights. The remaining could be met from other sources (groundwater, conjunctive use, recycled water, desalination, etc).
- In addition, the water demand projections for Region J water planning area (which overlaps with the BBEST/BBASC region) indicate an increase in water needs from ~1,500 acre feet in 2010 to ~2,500 acre feet in 2060.
7. There are several new or pending water permit applications before TCEQ to meet the future water demand.
 8. G-SA BBASC may recommend voluntary strategies that utilize existing rights to meet environmental flow requirements.
 9. Bay communities experienced significant changes in the fresh water flow in 2008/09 which caused noticeable decreases in the abundance of recreational fish species.
 10. Every riparian landowner has the right to withdraw limited water from the rivers for domestic and livestock uses which are exempt from TCEQ water rights permitting process. Currently the amount of water used for these purposes is not known, tracked or managed by TCEQ.
 11. The impact of prolonged drought conditions, changes in fresh water inflow, and encroachment of growing human population/land use on the food and habitat of the Whooping Crane requires additional study.